WE NEVER LEARN

BY TAISHI TSUTSUI

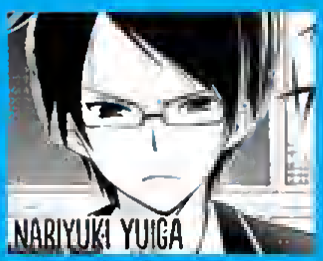
Nariyuki Yuiga is a self-professed super student. He's not naturally gifted in the sciences or arts like his classmates Rizu and Fumino, but he does have pluck and persistence! He's such a good student that he finally realizes his dream of obtaining a scholarship to college, which is a great relief since his family is dirt-poor! But there's a catch...

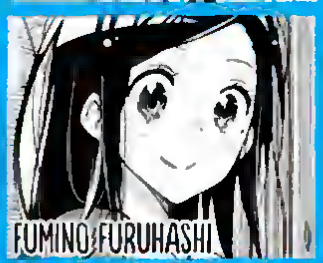
PREVIOUSLY IN *WE NEVER LEARN*:

Three prodigies + three difficult subjects + one desperate tutor = DANGER!

Yuiga has his hands full trying to help three students succeed in their worst subjects. Fumino is an ace in literature but wants to study science! Super athlete Uruka's preferred university requires English proficiency, but she hates to study! And math whiz Rizu is determined to major in the humanities. But if Yuiga somehow succeeds, he'll get the scholarship he needs to attend his college of choice!

While things have been looking up lately, Yuiga starts to notice that Rizu is acting strange. Moreover, the drama gets kicked up a notch when Rizu leans in to kiss Yuiga!





I
THOUGHT...

Question 30: A Genius Is Avidly Dedicated to the Investigation of X

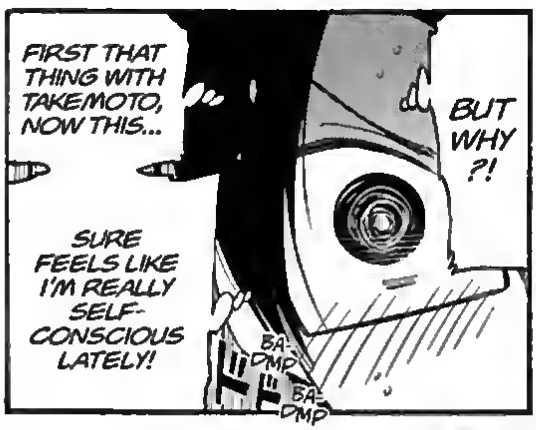
LIBRARY
ミーン
CHRRR
ミーン
CHRRR
FURU-HASHI, YOU SCORED A 60 IN MATH!
AND TAKE-MOTO, YOU SCORED A 54 IN ENGLISH!
English
54
Math
60
...
AND, OGATA ...
コホ…!
KOFF
LET'S REVIEW THE ONES YOU MISSED AND MAKE SURE YOU GET THEM NEXT TIME!
YOUR SCORES HAVE REALLY STABI-LIZED!
YEP.
YAY!
LET'S DO IT!
YOU JUST BARELY PASSED YOUR LAST LANGUAGE ARTS TEST.
ER... チラ…
WE SHOULD REALLY...
...PUT EXTRA TIME INTO REVIEWING YOUR TEST.
CLANG

RIGHT.
SORRY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
OH!
SURE ...
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
YEAH, I'M DONE FOR THE DAY TOO!
OKAY, I'M OFF TO SWIM PRACTICE!!
SEIKYO
TOK
TIK
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
GLANCE

I MUST'VE JUST MISUNDER-STOOD YESTERDAY.
SHE'S THE SAME AS EVER!
WELL, HECK ...
Phew...
RIGHT, OF COURSE.
SKRIT SKRIT
EXCUSE ME, YUIGA.
MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
SURE.
I SEE YOU'RE READING OSAMU DAZAI'S A SOUND OF HAMMERING.
YES.
THIS PASSAGE RIGHT HERE.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T UNDER-STAND?
A SOUND OF HAMMERING
BY OSAMU DAZAI
THE STORY OF A MAN WHO HEARS THE SOUND OF HAMMERING WHENEVER HE TRIES TO DO ANYTHING. AFTER REACHING WIT'S END, HE WRITES A LETTER TO A CERTAIN AUTHOR ABOUT THIS PROBLEM.
Forget it!
TONK
TONK TONK

BA-DMP
ドキッ
SO, HERE, WHERE THE NARRATOR WANTS TO KISS HANAE...
sn't that so
ell, that a
a little bit
anae's
vantin
to kiss Han
none of the
ople around her
won't tell anyone
a nearby cabin
DOES HE THEN LOSE THAT URGE?
SO...
SKWEEZ
... FROM A NEARBY CABIN, RIGHT?
IT SAYS THERE WAS A SOUND OF HAM-MERING...
ER, YEAH ...
SHE'S TALKING ABOUT THE STORY, RIGHT?
...WHY ON EARTH...
...WOULD SOMEONE HESITATE AND END UP NOT KISSING SOMEONE?
SO, IF THERE WAS NO SOUND OF HAM-MERING...

HUH?
ER...
OH...
YOU MEAN IN YOUR DREAM?
WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT WHEN WE'RE DONE STUDY-ING...
HUH?
SHOOP


FIRST THAT THING WITH TAKEMOTO, NOW THIS...
SURE FEELS LIKE I'M REALLY SELF-CONSCIOUS LATELY!
BUT WHY ?!
BA-DMP
BA-DMP

... ALMOST KISS ME AGAIN?!
DID SHE JUST ...
HUH ?!
WHAT ?!
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
BA-DMP

WHSH
SHWWP

Gotta focus on studying...
SHAKA SHAKA
No, no...
LEAN

Hm...
Must've been my imagination...
S-soo?
HEY.
Glare
はっ
GASP!
WHAT'S WITH YOU SINCE YESTERDAY?!
CHEATING AT WHAT?!
BAM
YOU WERE ONLY PRETENDING TO CLOSE YOUR EYES! THAT'S CHEATING!
HEY!
...THROUGH AN EMPIRICAL EXPERIMENT?
SO, YOU WANTED TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF KISSING...
I SEE.

SINCE WE COLLIDED ACCIDENTALLY THAT ONE TIME...
...I THOUGHT TRYING IT AGAIN MIGHT CLARIFY THINGS.
YES.
BUT?
BUT... THAT WAS THE IDEA.
SHF
WHEN...
...WHEN I ACTUALLY MADE UP MY MIND TO DO IT...
...FOR SOME REASON I FOUND MYSELF HESITATING.
I DON'T KNOW WHY! AND IT'S DRIVING ME CRAZY!
NOW I'M REALLY DETERMINED TO DO IT!!
SHAH
WHAT ARE YOU, CRAZY?
GAH
WHAT?!
WAIT...
...DO SOMETHING REALLY INAPPRO-PRIATE?
DID I...
THANK YOU FOR NOTICING, OGATA
GASP...
...

I'M SO SORRY.
Um... er...
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE ...
...WHEN I GET OBSESSED WITH A QUESTION, I CAN'T LET IT GO UNTIL I ANSWER IT.
WHEN I GET FOCUSED ON SOMETHING...
...I LOSE SIGHT OF EVERYTHING ELSE...
SENSEI! HOW CAN TANAKA AND SATO BOTH BE RIGHT...
...EVEN THOUGH THEY ANSWERED THE QUESTION DIFFERENTLY?
WELL, YOU SEE, OGATA ...
EVERYONE FEELS THINGS DIFFERENTLY, RIGHT?
SO IN LANGUAGE ARTS, THERE CAN BE MULTIPLE RIGHT ANSWERS.
I DON'T GET IT!

HARD?
STRANGE... SHE'S GREAT AT SUPER-HARD MATH.
YEAH... SHE'S KINDA WEIRD.
OGATA IS NICE AND ALL, BUT...
...MATH SEEMS MUCH MORE STRAIGHT-FORWARD...
COMPARED WITH HUMAN EMOTIONS WHERE THERE ARE MULTIPLE CORRECT ANSWERS...
AM I...
...WEIRD?
WELL...
YEAH, MAYBE.
BAM
BUT, YOU KNOW...
ZING
ZING

I THINK...
...THAT'S ALSO WHAT MAKES YOU SO COOL.
YOUR ABILITY TO FOCUS...
...AND YOUR DETERMINATION TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS...
...ARE QUALITIES I DON'T HAVE.
HONESTLY, I REALLY ADMIRE YOU.
THIS IS A SEPARATE MATTER.
GLARE
BUT...
Y...
YUIGA...

FOR GIRLS... IN FACT, FOR BOYS TOO...
...A KISS SHOULD BE SOMETHING SACRED!!
SHAH
LISTEN HERE, OGATA!
Gasp!
YES, SIR!
JOLT
I'M APPALLED THAT YOU WOULD TREAT IT SO LIGHTLY!!
YOU'RE DEFINITELY GOING TO HAVE REGRETS!
FOR SURE!
ANY-WAY...
BEFORE YOU GO OFF HALF-COCKED AGAIN...
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT ABOUT KISSING, YUIGA.
BLR-FF!
THAT GOES FOR COMMENTS LIKE THAT TOO!
Whoa...
PLUS IT'S NOT TRUE!

I'LL HAMMER IN A NAIL AND HELP YOU PUT THE BRAKES ON.
TONK, TONK, TONK—THE SOUND OF HAMMERING!
OKAY?
TALK TO ME FIRST NEXT TIME, OKAY?
SURE.
...FINALLY CLEAR UP?
OR DID THAT WEIRD FEELING LEFT OVER FROM MY DREAM...
IS IT MY IMAGINATION...
HUH?
!
WAIT, REALLY?!
AWESOME!! LET'S DO IT!
YUIGA...
I THINK I CAN FINALLY FOCUS ON STUDYING NOW!

CHRRRP
ミーン
CHRRRP
ミーン
CHRRRP
ミーン
YOU REALLY DID WELL ON THE SECOND PART.
NEXT TIME YOU'LL SCORE HIGHER FOR SURE!
YEAH!
CHRRRP
ミーン
CHRRRRRP
ミーン
So hot...
WOW, LISTEN TO THOSE CICADAS!
IT'S REALLY SUMMER-TIME.

CHRRRP
CHRRRP
CHRRRRP
?
WHISH
OGATA..
CHRRRP
CHRRRP
HUH?
CHRRRP
EARLIER ...
YOU SAID...
...YOU...
CHRRRRP
ER...
UM...
CHRRRP
HUH?
SHOOP
HM?
CHRRRRP

N-
NO...
YUIGA...

TO BE CONTINUED...